

Export Development Act

propose that the ceilings be lowered by an aggregate of \$10 billion.

In the case of the corporate loan ceiling, the government has proposed an amount of \$10 billion. We will offer an amendment lowering that amount to \$6 billion. The government is proposing a loan ceiling on government loans of \$2.5 billion. We will offer an amendment to make that amount \$1.5 billion. In addition, we will propose that the government's proposal for insurance and guarantee authorization be lowered by \$5 billion. That will be an aggregate lowering of the ceilings by \$10 billion, which is a great deal of money, as much as the total spending of the government when it first took office, and as much as its deficit is now. It leaves substantial spending power with that Crown corporation. But the people of Canada need the assurance that money will be used in the best long term interests of our country, and that we will not sacrifice many jobs tomorrow for a few jobs today.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: We are prepared to act in the public interest and in the tradition of parliamentary responsibility, which has marked our participation in attempting to bail out the government and rescue it from its own incompetence throughout this session. We will help the Export Development Corporation out of its present difficulties. The fact that we are prepared to help in this way does not solve the far more serious problems concerning the proper role of EDC. It does not solve the far more serious problems of the absence in this country of a national industrial strategy which can provide guidance and direction to government agencies and private entrepreneurs who operate now in a policy vacuum.

Those changes can only come with an election which will allow Canadians to make a choice between a government which thinks in terms of six-month budgets and spending money now to create Canadian unemployment later, and a new government which is determined to bring in a national industrial strategy which will give guidance to Canadian Crown corporations and private entrepreneurs, and bring some sense of honesty and restraint into the activities of government in this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Young: Mr. Speaker, will the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) permit a question?

Mr. Clark: Certainly, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Young: In the context of the hon. Leader of the Opposition's remarks that these Export Development Corporation contracts with Soviet nations were detrimental to Canada, and that they resulted only in plants being built in other countries with a potential loss of jobs to Canadians, can he explain those remarks, in view of the fact that I am aware of an EDC-backed contract which helped a truck manufacturer in this country to build a brand new factory, thus creating over 100 new jobs?

Mr. Clark: Question.

[Mr. Clark.]

Mr. Paproski: Do not make a speech.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Ask your question.

Mr. Young: I am asking a question. It is a specific one.

A second EDC-backed contract in Indonesia helped put 200 men back to work in Canada, who had been laid off for three months.

Mr. Clark: Mr. Speaker, obviously the hon. member opposite requires some practice in asking questions. If he survives the next election, he will get some practice doing that.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: I said that the Government of Canada, through the Export Development Corporation, is aiding the development of industries in Iron Curtain countries and other countries.

Mr. Young: And in this country.

Mr. Clark: If the hon. member wants to rise in his place once again, he can do so. But he prefers to shout across the floor, which is typical of the action displayed by the Liberal party throughout this session of parliament.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark: Since the hon. member asked a question, which I can only presume was serious I presume he is interested in the concern I and many other Canadians have. The government spends substantial amounts of money now, and makes money available to encourage the development of industries in countries which operate under a different market system than ours, and where the state controls and keeps wage levels low. When the government subsidizes the creation of industries in those countries, which compete with similar industries here, it is much more difficult for Canada to compete in the world. They may well be raising competition for industries which now operate in Canada. If that is being done, Canadians who have jobs now may well be jeopardized, or jobs Canadians could look forward to may be jeopardized. The question which must be answered is: why should Canadian money be spent to help other countries compete with us, at the cost of Canadian jobs in the future?

Mr. Young: It is putting our own people to work.

Mr. Clark: That is the type of question which has been raised repeatedly by hon. members on this side of the House. It is the type of question government spokesmen consistently attempt to ignore. It is a basic question. This is the reason why there must be a thorough review of the activities of the Export Development Corporation in this country. That is the kind of review that we want to see happen, and the kind of review that we will introduce after the next election. In the meantime we are prepared to help the government out of the crisis it has created, by increasing the ceilings.